Amendments To The Claims

1. (Currently amended) A process for inhibiting expression of a target gene in mammalian cells or tissue ~~in vitro~~, comprising infecting said mammalian cells or tissue with: (a) a first set of viral particles consisting essentially of single stranded ribonucleic acid (ss RNA) which expresses a sense RNA strand, and (b) a second set of viral particles consisting essentially of ss RNA which expresses an anti-sense RNA strand, wherein the sense and anti-sense RNA strands comprise homologous nucleotide sequences to a portion of said target gene.

2. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein said mammalian cells or tissue are infected with equal amounts of viral particles consisting essentially of ss RNA expressing a sense RNA strand and of viral particles consisting essentially of ss RNA expressing an anti-sense RNA strand.

3. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein ss RNA is cloned into the vector of an alphavirus in sense orientation to provide a first set of viral particles consisting essentially of ss RNA which expresses a sense RNA strand, and ss RNA is cloned into the vector of an alphavirus in anti-sense orientation to provide a second set of viral particles consisting essentially of ss RNA which expresses an anti-sense RNA strand.

4. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 in which said target gene is a eukaryotic gene, a viral gene or a synthetic gene.

5. (Original) The process of claim 1 in which said target gene is a developmental gene, an oncogene, a tumor suppressor gene or an enzyme.

6. (Original) The process of claim 1 in which said homologous nucleotide sequence is specific for said target gene and is at least 50 bases in length.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)